

Rotavirus Surveillance News

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A bi-monthly newsletter edited by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, USA

Upcoming Meetings

CAPGAN, Feb 2006, Dhaka

Asian Pediatric Infection
Diseases, Feb 2006, Manila

Asian Conference on
Diarrhoeal Diseases and
Nutrition (ASCODD), March
2006, Bangkok

In Upcoming Issues...

- Update – Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) network
- Update – Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office of WHO (EMRO) network
- Update – Reference lab

Links to Partners

www.cdc.gov – U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.who.int/en/ - World Health Organization

www.rotavirusvaccine.org – Rotavirus Vaccine Program, a PATH affiliate

www.ivi.org – International Vaccine Institute



Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of Rotavirus Surveillance News. The newsletter is a product of the Rotavirus Vaccine Program (RVP). RVP is a collaboration between World Health Organization (WHO), the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and is funded by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations. The Disease Burden and Surveillance Program (DBS), based at CDC and in collaboration

with RVP, was established to support surveillance activities and studies that would help define the disease and economic burden of rotavirus disease in countries and regions around the world. We intend for this bi-monthly newsletter to provide you with timely, helpful updates on the latest news related to rotavirus surveillance activities worldwide. Each month, we will focus on one region or a type of activity, as well as provide updates on recent meetings, publications, and

other news of interest. In this edition, we introduce you to the Asian Rotavirus Surveillance Network, which has been active since 2000 and has recently expanded to exciting new areas and new activities.

We hope that you find this newsletter useful, and encourage you to let us know how to make it even better.

*Joseph Bresee, MD
Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention USA
Editor, Rotavirus
Surveillance News*

Update – Asian Rotavirus Surveillance Network

In 1999, a small group of researchers met in Bangkok to plan a regional collaboration that would collect high-quality data on rotavirus disease among hospitalized children in Asia. Since then, the group that became known as the Asian Rotavirus Surveillance Network (ARSN) has led the effort in defining the importance of rotavirus disease in the region and the world. In less than 2 years, 36 hospitals in 9 countries and regions were actively collecting data, training laboratory and clinical scientists, and

educating their own public health officials about the impact of rotavirus infection in their countries. In 2002, ARSN published their initial results, which demonstrated for the first time that the rotavirus disease burden among hospitalized children was much higher than expected. They found that 45% of all children hospitalized with diarrhea were infected with rotavirus.¹ This month, a special edition of the *Journal of Infectious Diseases* highlights the work of the Network.² It confirms

this high prevalence and provides the most complete data on strain prevalence in the region, including data on the emergence of G9 strains as regionally significant serotypes. ARSN members have provided the scientific leadership for a diverse coalition of public health institutions, academic centers, and international agencies, which mirror the variety of partners committed to rotavirus disease prevention.

Continued on page 2

Asian Network

Principal Investigator(s) and Collaborators	Coordinating Institution
Dr. Karl Kirkwood	University of Melbourne, Australia
Dr. A.K. Siddique	ICDDR,B, Bangladesh
Dr. Kanak Ranjan Talukter	Disease Control, DGHS, Bangladesh
Prof. Chour Meng/Dr. Van Sith	National Pediatric Hospital, Cambodia
Dr. Zhao-Yin Fang	Institute for Viral Disease Control and Prevention, China CDC, PRC
Dr. Abu Tholib Aman	Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia
Prof. Yati Soenarto	Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia
Dr. Siswanto Wilopo	Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia
Dr. Paul Kilgore	International Vaccine Institute, Korea
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Dr. Duangdao Souk Aloun	Mahosot Hospital, Lao PDR
Dr. Rattanaphone Phetsouvanh	Mahosot Hospital, Lao PDR
Dr. P. Nymadawa	Ministry of Health, Mongolia
Dr. Gantuya Sengee	Maternal & Child Health Research Center, Mongolia
Dr. Kyaw Moe	Dept. of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar), Myanmar
Dr. Basu dev Pandey	Sukraraj Tropical and Infectious Disease Hospital, Ministry of Health, Nepal
Dr. Jeevan B. Serchand	Infectious and Tropical Diseases Research & Prevention Centre, Nepal
Prof. Zulfiqar Ahmed Bhutta Hussein	Aga Khan University, Pakistan
Dr. Anita Zaidi	Aga Khan University, Pakistan
Dr. Celia Carlos	Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Dept. of Health, Philippines
Dr. Ranjith Batuwathudawe	Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka
Dr. Chuleeporn Jiraphongsa	Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
Dr. Kumnuan Ungchusak	Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
Dr. Nigel Cunliffe	University of Liverpool, UK
Dr. Erkin Musabaev	National Reference Laboratory, Uzbekistan

Network update (cont.)

In 2004, ARSN expanded to include new members, particularly of low-income countries in the region (Table). Much of the support permitting this expansion was provided by RVP. In addition, the Network has become more aligned with ministries of health and WHO country and regional offices. Thus, the data collected will be most accessible to the public health officials who will be responsible for making decisions about strategies to prevent diarrheal disease. International health agencies such as CDC and the International Vaccine Institute in Seoul, Korea, continue to provide technical support to the Network. The WHO Collaborating Laboratory on Rotavirus at Murdoch

Children's Hospital in Melbourne Australia, under the leadership of Dr. Carl Kirkwood, serves as the regional reference and training laboratory.

The ARSN has truly established the model for regional rotavirus surveillance networks. It will continue to serve the member countries and the region by providing the best data on which to make decisions, establishing a solid foundation for sustainable surveillance, improving laboratory capacity, and creating champions for rotavirus disease prevention.

References

1. Bresee JS, Glass RI, Fang ZY, et al. First report from the Asian Rotavirus Surveillance Network. *Emerg Infect Dis J* 2004;10:988-95.
2. *J Infect Dis* 2005; 192 (Supplement)

What's New

*This Month in Press -**"Rotavirus in Asia".*

A special edition of *Journal of Infectious Diseases* has been published (see reference above) this

month. It contains 23 papers that provide reviews of recent surveillance work, updates on vaccines in development, and reviews of other key topics.

Questions or comments?

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